



Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date December 7, 2009

Reporter: BRIAN STEEN

Editor: NICK NICHOLS

CALL TO ORDER

RALPH ADAMS called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM. The pledge of allegiance was given by GEORGE FITZGERALD, followed by a moment of silence in memory those who died at Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941.

VISITING GUESTS/ROTARY HOST

Dick Bush/ MIKE COUCH
Jane Alhouse Gee/BRUCE GEE
Jocelyn Villaruz/DARYL SAVAGE
Jim Baer/WALT HAYS
Don Morgan/GINNY LEAR
Christina Cienfuegos/BOB SMITHWICK
Chaiti Chatterjee/GINNY LEAR

OPENING REMARKS

JUDY KLEINBERG poignantly observed that despite today being December 7, there is very little if any observation or media attention given to Pearl Harbor. From there, she mentioned Hanukkah is a "celebration of survival." She reminded us that most of life's lessons can be found in *Everything I needed, I learned in Kindergarten*:

"Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you are sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Flush. Warm cookies and cold milk are food for you. Live a balanced life. Learn some and think some and draw some and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day.

Take a nap every afternoon. When you go out in the world, watch for traffic, hold hands, and stick together. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup? The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why. We are like that.

Think of what a better world it would be if we all, the whole world, had cookies and milk about 3 o'clock every afternoon, and then lay down with our blankets for a nap. Or we had a basic policy in our nation and other nations to always put things back where we found them and cleaned up our own messes. And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out in the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together."

NEW MEMBER INDUCTIONS

President RALPH welcomed new members JIM BAER, DICK BUSH, CHAITI CHATERJEE and DICK MORGAN. A fabulous group of talented people is now part of Palo Alto Rotary!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MIKE COUCH introduced his Interact guests from Gunn High School, who proudly announced their club's Silent Auction for End Polio Now, coming up December 18 at 3 PM at the Los Altos Garden House, 400 University Ave, Los Altos.

MIKE then presented VICKY CHING with a 5 Star Rotary pin in recognition of her generous Rotary contributions. Mike offered to match any member's donation to the Rotary Foundation. Also, VERY Generous!

Finally, MIKE announced that on this Thursday at 10:30 AM, dictionaries will be presented by Rotary to Green Oaks Academy.

MIKE McMAHON stepped up to announce a wager contribution of \$100 if Army beats Navy this weekend. RALPH upped it to \$104, the number of years these teams have squared off against each other.

GLORIA HOM, as our new Social Chair, announced the upcoming Rotary events:

January 23, Chinese New Year (Tiger) banquet at Mings, with other upcoming events, including a YMCA pancake breakfast and a spring Membership social at MIKE COUCH's

BRIAN STEEN announced the December 15 Rotary Holiday Party to be held at his house, 877 Moana Court, on Dec. 15 at 6 PM. All PA Rotarians and spouses are invited to come and enjoy good food and Holiday music. Please review the Rotary email for details on what to bring, etc.

THE PROGRAM

ROB LYMAN introduced these new outstanding Rotarians:

DENNIS BURNS, Palo Alto Chief of Police, told us he "hit the jackpot" when he married his wife. He grew up in the SF Sunset District, which he pointed out is a misnomer, with Dennis always wanting to be a police officer. After completing college at St. Ignatius and San Jose State, Dennis joined the Palo Alto Police department and after 28 years of service, was recently sworn in as its new Chief.

AUDREY RUST, President of Peninsula Open Space Trust, is a former PA Rotary member and, as such, has two badges, two pins, and as our second speaker, went through the "two's" of her life: two marriages, two divorces, two colleges: Stanford and Yale, two celebrity kisses: Al Gore and Robert Redford, she works at 222 High Street, and is proud to be part of Palo Alto's FIRST Rotary club. Welcome back, Audrey!

BRUCE GEE grew up in a Sacramento Rotary family. He went to Stanford and MIT, started work at Apple, and is now working with Rotarians TODD LEWIS and SAM WEBSTER. Bruce brought interesting props to illustrate things that impacted his life, including a book about Macintosh computers, Christmas cards he's created and sold, and a baseball hat showing his Little League coaching time when he met TODD LEWIS.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 PM.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

[Palo Alto Rotary - Speakers Schedule](#)

December 14 – West Bay Opera's Holiday Celebration.

December 21 – Club Assembly, President RALPH ADAMS presiding

December 28 – DARK. Actually Sparkling and Bright with Holiday Cheer

NEARBY MEETING PLACES:

[Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information](#)